



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

500.36167CX1

Applicants: TAKAHASHI, et al

Serial No.: 09/496,465

Filed: February 2, 2000

For: ELECTRONIC BUSINESS TRANSACTION SYSTEM

Group: 2761

Examiner: J. Pwu

#5 / Pre Amendment
9/28/02
3/28/02

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MAR 14 2002

Technology Center 2600

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 12, 2002

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 13 and 14 as follows:

13. A method of achieving electronic business transactions in an electronic business transaction system including a plurality of member sites, a center site, and a network to connect the member sites and the center site to each other, said method comprising:

storing information of open businesses issued by a plurality of member sites to find business partners in an open business information database in said center site;

receiving a request from a member site to access contents of said open business information database stored in said center site; and